



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Auditor-Controller
Acting Superintendent of Schools
Chief Probation Officer
Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held November 25, 2003, the Board took the following action:

32-B

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

“On Thursday, November 20, 2003, KCBS completed its 4-month undercover investigation into the education received by foster children attending nonpublic schools in Los Angeles County. Serious deficiencies were discovered, such as very little oversight and monitoring by the California Department of Education. Due to budget cuts and very little resources, inspection is only conducted once every 4 years. Other deficiencies included: no certified teachers, no standard curriculum, schools located in former motels or old strip malls, no computers, no benchmarks or performance measures, no extracurricular activities, no record of the number of children that graduate or attend college.

“Not surprisingly, far too many of our foster youth are at risk of becoming unemployed, incarcerated and homeless. Recent studies have shown the education needs of our foster youth are one of the most critical areas in need of attention and collaboration. As such, a few months ago, the Board requested the development of an Education Coordinating Council to address this serious deficiency.

“I therefore recommend that the Board request the Director of Children and Family Services and the Executive Director of the Children's Law Center to report to the Board at the meeting of November 25, 2003, on the development of the Education Coordinating Council and how the serious deficiencies noted in nonpublic schools are being addressed.”

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32-B (Continued)

Dr. David B. Sanders, Director of Children and Family Services and Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center, presented verbal reports to the Board on the development of the Education Coordinating Council, and how the deficiencies in the nonpublic schools are being addressed.

Merritt Holloway and Warren Williams also addressed the Board.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“After hearing testimony from Dr. Sanders, Miriam Krinsky and other stakeholders, it is imperative that we immediately begin to develop new policies and procedures to improve the educational outcomes for our children attending nonpublic schools.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Requested the Director of Children and Family Services and the Executive Director of the Children's Law Center to develop performance measurements to assure that social workers, group home providers and caregivers attend to the educational needs of the foster youth;
2. Instructed the Acting Superintendent of Schools, Chief Probation Officer, Director of Children and Family Services and the Chief Administrative Officer, in collaboration with the Children's Law Center to:
 - Seek and support legislative reforms to establish monitoring, oversight and performance measures related to the curriculum and the quality of teachers in the classroom;
 - Explore the feasibility of using the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections or other oversight entity to conduct monthly inspections of the nonpublic schools affiliated with group homes;

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32-B (Continued)

3. Requested the Auditor-Controller, State Attorney General and the District Attorney to investigate the nonpublic schools featured in the November 20, 2003 KCBS report for potential misuse of public funds; and
4. Instructed the Auditor-Controller and the Director of Children and Family Services to evaluate the nonpublic schools affiliated with group homes and report back quarterly to the Board in regards to any violations of the law, misuse of funds or improper practices.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
County Counsel

Letters to:

State Attorney General
District Attorney
Executive Director, Children's Law Center